

Parashah 53

Ha'azinu

הַאֲזִינוּ

“Listen”

Deuteronomy 32:1–52

Torah Together



This *Torah* portion records the “Song of Moses.” Although this song was probably never set to music, it was written in poetic form so that it could be memorized and passed down from generation to generation.

1. The Song of Moses - 32:1-47

a) This is the second “Song of Moses” we’ve encountered. (The first was in **Exodus 15**.) To whom did Moses recite the words of this song?

b) What characteristic of God does Moses describe in verses 3-4? Given what you know about other pagan gods, is this characteristic unique to God?

c) Who is the “they” referred to in verse 5? Do you think Moses is speaking of the people standing in front of him or of future generations?

d) In the next several verses, Moses uses poetic language to describe how God chose Israel to be his people and brought them to the Promised Land. What events in Israel’s past do you think Moses is describing in verses 10 - 12?

Scripture Link:
According to **Deuteronomy 31:19 & 21**, what is the purpose of this song?

Scripture Link:
Yet another Song of Moses is recorded as **Psalm 90**. Also, in **Revelation 15:2-3**, John states that we will all be singing *The Song of Moses* before God.

Scripture Link:
Genesis 27:41 – 28:22 tells the story of Jacob’s journey from his family home to Laban, his uncle. Do you think this might be the event described here?

Scripture Link:

The land of Bashan lies east of the Jordan River.

Numbers 32:33-42 describes the assignment of this land to a specific tribe of Israel.

Even though this passage is full of graphic imagery concerning the misfortunes that will befall Israel, it is clear that God never completely leaves them or forsakes them. He has known from the beginning that these events would come on His people. In the end, God will have compassion on His servants and they will return to Him. God will then take vengeance on His enemies.

e) Verses 13 - 14 describe Israel's future in the land of Israel. Initially, how did Israel do in the land? Which tribe inherited the land of Bashan? Why did they choose this land?

f) In verse 15, Jeshrun means "the upright one", that is Israel. What does Moses predict will happen to Israel in verses 15 - 18? Did this indeed come to pass?

g) Beginning in verse 19, Moses describes how God will respond to Israel's actions. What are some of the things God will do to Israel?

h) In verses 26 - 27, God explains why he will not blot out all memory of Israel. What is his reason?

i) Finally, God's anger will run its course. According to verse 36, what will be Israel's condition when God has compassion on them? What will God do when his people finally turn from their pagan ways and return to him?

j) After he finished reciting this song, what did Moses encourage the people to do?

“They are not just idle words for you – they are your life.”

Deuteronomy 32:47

2. Moses to Die on Mount Nebo - 32:48-52

a) Where did God tell Moses that he would die? Can you locate this spot on map?

b) God again explains why Moses was not allowed to enter the land with the Israelites. Do you recall the incident God refers to? Does this give you a better understanding of why God chose to punish Moses and Aaron in this way?

See the map and photograph on pages 1 and 2 for details about Mount Nebo.

Scripture Link:

The incident that led to Moses not being allowed to enter the Promised Land is described in **Numbers 20:1-13.**

Digging deeper

1. Although this “Song of Moses” is not really a song, it does use poetic language to tell God’s message. Why do you think this is a good idea?

2. This “Song of Moses” speaks prophetically to the future of the nation of Israel. How much of this prophecy do you think has come to pass? How much is yet to be fulfilled? Given that this prophecy was given about 3500 years ago, does this give you a sense of God’s time scale? Is this encouraging to you or not?

For further study, see

Haftarah : II Samuel 22:1-51

Brit Hadashah : Romans 10:14-21; 12:14-21;

Hebrews 12:28-39